

# MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

The **Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities (CETO)** is a think tank dedicated to developing new ideas for the U.S. Marine Corps. It was established in November 2000 at the direction of the Senate Armed Service's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities out of a growing concern for the wide range of security challenges the U.S. will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. CETO operates as a division of the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, Va.

CETO's mission is to prevent operational and tactical surprise to senior warfighting commanders by assessing the future security environment in light of emerging threats and potential conceptual and technical opportunities. CETO aims to serve as a catalyst to stimulate thought and debate on issues of importance to the Marine Corps. CETO also responds to requests for support from the senior warfighting commanders.

The following projects are representative of CETO's current focus:

**Child Soldiers.** More than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are under arms fighting as soldiers in the more than 30 conflicts around the globe. Though this is not a new phenomenon, it is nearly inevitable that U.S. forces will face child soldiers in the future. CETO is examining ways that Marines can better plan and deal with this phenomenon.

**Support to Operating Forces: Anti-Terrorism, Force Protection, Homeland Defense.** Additional capabilities will be needed to support the Marine Corps role in homeland defense. CETO is conducting two efforts to assess USMC organization and training and provide recommendations.

**Small Wars II.** One of the most likely forms of warfare we will encounter in the future is the Small War. CETO is writing a second volume of the Small Wars Manual, which synthesizes contemporary thought on Operations Other Than War covering the years since the original Small Wars Manual was written. It is not intended to replace the still valuable 1940 manual. Small Wars II is part of a larger project, spearheaded by the

## CENTER FOR EMERGING THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*fact sheet*



Warfighting Lab, that includes the Operations Other Than War website as its centerpiece.

**Cultural Intelligence Seminars.** Marine forces often deploy on short notice to countries where they have limited experience and familiarity. In conjunction with the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, CETO conducts Cultural Intelligence Seminars for deploying forces to provide timely and tailored training focused on cultural aspects of specific countries and regions or on functional issues.

**Enhanced Blast Weapons.** Enhanced blast weapons provide both an emerging threat and opportunity for the U.S. military. CETO is developing requirements, concepts, and tactics, techniques, and procedures to defend against the use of enhanced blast weapons by U.S. foes. In addition, CETO is exploring tactics, techniques, and procedures for the employment of these weapons by Marine operating forces.

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